

Exodus 40 - Thursday, August 6th, 2009

- Well, it looks like tonight will be the night that we finally and actually complete the book of Exodus as we study the last chapter, 40.

40:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 2 "On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting.

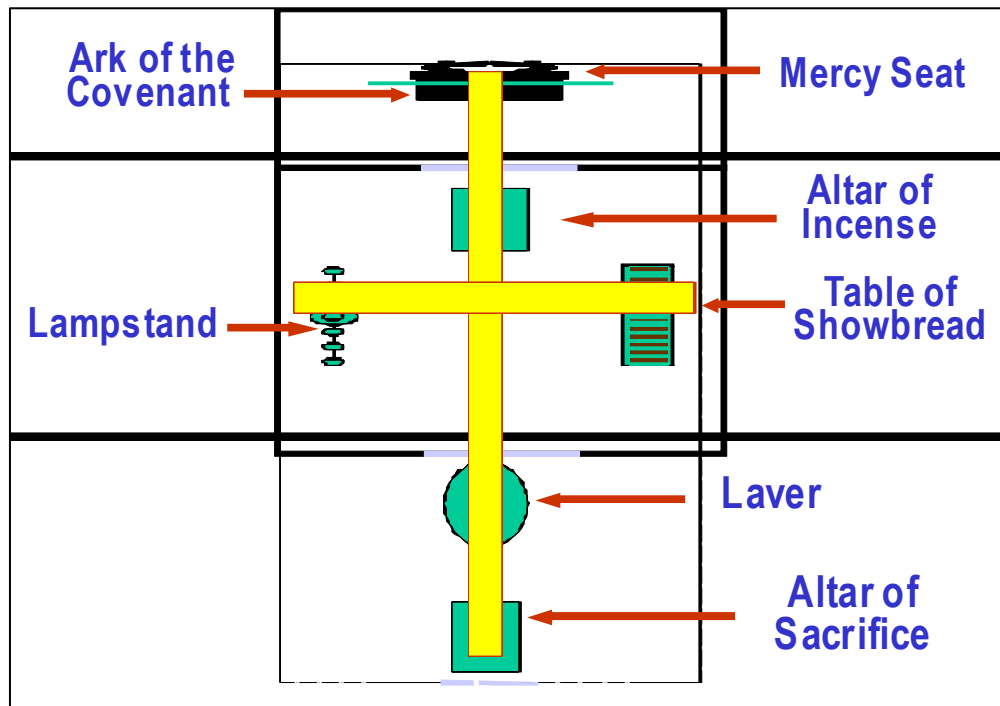
- This would seem to indicate that it has been a year since the Israelites were delivered out of Egypt, and what a year it has been.
- One commentator has suggested that to complete the construction of the Tabernacle may have taken about six months to build.

- Notice how that the Lord tells Moses to set up the Tabernacle, on the first day of the first month which is the beginning of a new year.
- What makes this so interesting is that this would place the setting up of the tabernacle on the one year anniversary of the Passover.
- In other words God by design, sets this up on their spiritual birthday because it was on this day that they were delivered from Egypt.

3 You shall put in it the ark of the Testimony, and partition off the ark with the veil. 4 You shall bring in the table and arrange the things that are to be set in order on it; and you shall bring in the lampstand and light its lamps. 5 You shall also set the altar of gold for the incense before the ark of the Testimony, and put up the screen for the door of the tabernacle. 6 Then you shall set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. 7 And you shall set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water in it. 8 You shall set up the court all around, and hang up the screen at the court gate. 9 "And you shall take the anointing oil, and anoint the tabernacle and all that is in it; and you shall hallow it and all its utensils, and it shall be holy. 10 You shall anoint the altar of the burnt offering and all its utensils, and consecrate the altar. The altar shall be most holy. 11 And you shall anoint the laver and its base, and consecrate it.

- Here, they put in place the Ark of the Testimony, which is in the Holy of Holies, and separate it from the Holy Place with the veil.
- After this, they set up the Table of Showbread, the Lampstand, then the golden Altar of Incense which is located in the Holy Place.
- Then, they set up the Altar of Burnt Offering, and the Laver for cleansing, and have all of the utensils anointed and consecrated.

- Perhaps it would be fitting at this point, to show the arrangement of all of these furnishings how they form the cross of Jesus Christ.



12 "Then you shall bring Aaron and his sons to the door of the tabernacle of meeting and wash them with water. 13 You shall put the holy garments on Aaron, and anoint him and consecrate him, that he may minister to Me as priest. 14 And you shall bring his sons and clothe them with tunics. 15 You shall anoint them, as you anointed their father, that they may minister to Me as priests; for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations." 16 Thus Moses did; according to all that the LORD had commanded him, so he did.

- This is where Aaron and his sons as Levite's are anointed and consecrated as priests to minister to the Lord in the Tabernacle.
- Notice that the prerequisite is being cleansed and clothed, then anointed and consecrated. These are what I like to call "ministry musts."
- Also, it's imperative that we understand; our ministry is first and foremost to the Lord as the priesthood of believers. How do we do this?

Acts 13:1-3 1 Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 **As they ministered to the Lord and fasted**, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. NKJV

17 And it came to pass in the first month of the second year, on the first day of the month, that the tabernacle was raised up.18 So Moses raised up the tabernacle, fastened its sockets, set up its boards, put in its bars, and raised up its pillars.19 And he spread out the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent on top of it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- Keep in mind that up to this point everything has only been constructed, so now it has to be set up and put up in order to be completed.
- It's interesting to me how Moses is sort of rolling up his arm sleeves, if you will, and doing all that the Lord had commanded him to do.

20 He took the Testimony and put it into the ark, inserted the poles through the rings of the ark, and put the mercy seat on top of the ark.21 And he brought the ark into the tabernacle, hung up the veil of the covering, and partitioned off the ark of the Testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

- Once the two tablets which contain the Ten Commandments are placed into the ark, the poles are inserted into the rings of the ark.
- The mercy seat is placed on top of the Ark, then the curtain, or veil, which both separated and covered the Holy of Holies is put up.

22 He put the table in the tabernacle of meeting, on the north side of the tabernacle, outside the veil;23 and he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.24 He put the lampstand in the tabernacle of meeting, across from the table, on the south side of the tabernacle;25 and he lit the lamps before the LORD, as the LORD had commanded Moses.26 He put the gold altar in the tabernacle of meeting in front of the veil;27 and he burned sweet incense on it, as the LORD had commanded Moses.28 He hung up the screen at the door of the tabernacle.29 And he put the altar of burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle of the tent of meeting, and offered upon it the burnt offering and the grain offering, as the LORD had commanded Moses.30 He set the laver between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar, and put water there for washing;31 and Moses, Aaron, and his sons would wash their hands and their feet with water from it.32 Whenever they went into the tabernacle of meeting, and when they came near the altar, they washed, as the LORD had commanded Moses.33 And he raised up the court all around the tabernacle and the altar, and hung up the screen of the court gate. So Moses finished the work.

- The rest of the articles are all put in place and then were told the "Moses finished the work." Would to God that we would finish well...
- Suffice it to say, that many of us start many things, but do we finish everything we start. May it be said of us; "So JD finished the work."

34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.35 And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.36 Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys.37 But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up.38 For the cloud of the LORD was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

- Notice that "when" the work was finished, "then" the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle, and His presence remained there with them.
- I have to admit that I have no words or Power Point slides with graphics that could possibly describe what this must have been like.

- Be that as it may, imagine how grand and glorious this was, the bright light with the fire at night, and the cosmic cloud by day.
- Keep in mind that the fire by night and cloud by day were God's way of providing direction and protection in all the Israelites journeys.

- Let's finish this book with more typology of how Moses is a picture of the person of Jesus Christ and the finished work of the cross.

Both were born under a foreign Gentile power
Both their lives were in danger as infants
Both were in Egypt as children
Both had compassion upon the children of Israel
Both emptied themselves of their power
Both became like their brethren
Both came to deliver their people
Both were rejected at the first coming
Both journeyed among the Gentiles
Both sat by a well
Both were shepherds
Both appointed 70 men
Both sent out 12 men
Both built and fulfilled the Tabernacle
Both "finished the work"